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M.R.Ry. Palaniswami Chettiyar, representative of the Komarapalayam tax-payers, respectively, were referred in Government Memorandum No. 4485-A-1/A-2, dated 7th February 1933, to the President, District Board, for early enquiry and report.

Petitions were also received by the President, District Board, direct and through the Collector of Salem and the Inspector of Local Boards. all containing allegations against the President and some members of the Panchayat Board. Thereupon the President, District Board, held an enquiry into the matter at Komarapalayam one day and at Salem on another day. On these two occasions both the parties with their vakils were present. The result of the enquiry was reported to Government along with the petitions and telegrams referred to him by the Government. The Government have now observed that the President of District Board's enquiry has shown that the President's party and the opposition on the Panchayat Board are equally balanced and that the administration is practically at a stand-still except for such business as the President and his party continue to dispose of at meetings held without the knowledge of the members of the opposition that the President has been guilty of several serious irregularities and abuses of power and that he has dismissed the entire establishment of the Panchayat and that the Panchayat Board which is unable to exercise any effective check on the vagaries of its President and which is too preoccupied with party strife to be able to discharge its duties to the villagers has rendered itself incompetent to perform the duties imposed on it by law.

Resolution.—In the circumstances stated in the note and in the interest of the villagers this Board has no objection to the supersession of the Komarapalayam Panchayat Board.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 73 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd August 1933, page 163 supra.]

I

Letter, dated 20th July 1933, from B. Thimmannacharya, landlord, Brahmavar, South Kanara, to the hon. the Law Member.

In a general meeting of the villagers of Kergal, Nandanavan, Kambadakone, Heranjalu, Kirimanjeshwara, Uppunda, Bijur, etc., assembled at Nayakanakatte on the 11th of July 1933, the villagers thereof, after passing certain resolutions setting forth their grievances in respect of the recent notification by the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, in the District Gazette of 24th January 1933, have authorized and instructed me, as their elected President, to submit a copy of the proceedings to you for kind consideration. The copy is herewith enclosed.

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The Proceedings No. 560, dated 16th December 1932, of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, published in the above notification, entails serious suffering to those villagers as it seeks to deprive them of the use of the only forest on the waste products of which the cultivation of vast fields in those villages depends.

Favour of early action is solicited.

Enclousure.

Proceedings of the General Body meeting held on 11th July 1933 at Naikanakatte of No. 9, Kergal village of Coondapoor taluk, of the occupants of Kergal, Nandanavana, Kambadakone, Heranjalu, Kirimanjeshwar, Uppunda, Bijur and other villages.

PRESENT:

Koderi Narayana Karantha and others, in all, 305 persons.

1. Proposed by Naikanakatte Krishna Bhatta and seconded by Koderi Narayana Karantha, that M.R.Ry. Brahmavar Timmannacharya be elected to be the president of the meeting, he being a wargdar of the locality and having experience of the same. He was unanimously elected as president.

2. Read notice published by the Forest Officer in *South Kanara Gazette* of 11th January 1933 about the proceedings of the Conservator of Forests, Madras, dated 16th December 1932, No. 569, that the concessions granted to the public to remove forest produce from reserve forests have been cancelled. The people of this locality have been from time immemorial bringing firewood, manure leaves and other forest produce for their daily agricultural and domestic purposes from Kusigudde, Guruvanakote and other adjoining reserve forests. Recently the Government has converted the forests into reserve forests ostensibly for the purpose of helping the public and has been obstructing step by step the use of such reserve forests by the public. The people through their representatives in Council agitated in regard to the same and the former Chief Conservator who knew very well the difficulties of ryots here had given free permission to bring green manure leaves, dried leaves, thorn, brushwood and other forest produce from all trees except classified trees. The present Chief Conservator, however, without enquiry has entirely cancelled all the aforesaid rights.

3. The meeting with great sorrow condemn the aforesaid notification cancelling the concessions as the same not only caused great hardship to cultivation but even the firewood required by people for their daily use has been made unavailable. When on account of the great distress the price of foodstuffs has gone down and people are experiencing great difficulties even in the proper and timely payment of assessment due to the Government, this order is sure to discourage all cultivation, and there is even the danger of lands going fallow. The notification which prohibits the people for taking the forest produce from which the Government gets not a single pie and which gets destroyed in the forest is really very hard which no civilized Government ought to support.

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4. This meeting regrets that the District Collector has not passed any orders till now either in the proceedings of the people of Baindur locality that sent to him or on the representations of the deputation that waited on the Collector when he came to Baindur.

5. The meeting feels that this notification will surely give rise to a lot of ill-feeling between the Government and the people and result also in unnecessary agitation and reprisals and hence the meeting humbly prays that the Local Government may be pleased immediately to cancel the notification and make the forest produce available to people as before.

6. The president of this meeting is hereby authorized to send copies of the proceedings of this meeting to the District Collector, the District Forest Officer, the Chief Conservator and Conservator of Forests, the hon. the Law Member to the Government of Madras, the President of South Kanara Landholders' Association and also the Legislative Council Members representing the district and to all the papers of the district.

NAIKANAKATTE,
11*th July* 1933.

TIMMANNACHARYA,
President.

II

Letter from M.R.Ry. K. R. KARANT Avargal, B.A., LL.B., Honorary Secretary, South Kanara Landholders' Association, Mangalore, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, No. 39, dated 2nd March 1933.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the proceedings of a public meeting of landholders held under the auspices of the South Kanara Landholders' Association at Mangalore, on 22nd February 1933 and I beg to draw your particular attention to resolution No. III contained therein. I shall thank you to acknowledge receipt of the same and kindly communicate to me the action which Government may be pleased to take on the matter.

Enclosure.

Proceedings of a public meeting of Landholders held under the auspices of the Landholders' Association, South Kanara, at 5-30 *p.m., on Wednesday, the 22nd February* 1933.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha, B.A., LL.B., retired Assistant Sessions Judge and ex-M.L.C., was unanimously voted to the Chair.

Mr. K. R. Karant, Secretary to the South Kanara Landholders' Association and Convener of the meeting, explained the objects of the meeting.

III. Proposed by Mr. B. Manjaya Hegde, B.A., B.L., and seconded by Mr. M. N. Chowta, B.A., B.L., and unanimously passed.

"That this meeting strongly protests against the proposed policy of the gradual withdrawal of the concessions to the cultivators in the reserve forests of Government in the district, enunciated

in the proceedings of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ms. No. 560, dated 17th December 1932, and communicated to the Secretary of the Landholders' Association, by the District Forest Officer of North Mangalore, and the actual withdrawal of the concessions in some of the reserves from 1st April 1933.

IV. Proposed by Mr. B. Mahabala Shetty, B.A., B.L., and seconded by Mr. A. M. Mathias and passed unanimously.

"That a deputation consisting of the following gentlemen and others who may be co-opted by them and led by Mr. K. R. Karant, do wait upon the District Collector, to represent the grievances of the landholders of the district in regard to the matters contained in the above resolutions.

V. Proposed by Mr. A. M. Mathias and seconded by Mr. M. Shankernarayana Rao, B.A., B.L., that this meeting authorizes the Secretary of the Landholders' Association to communicate the proceedings of this meeting to Government, the local authorities and the M.L.Cs. of the district and the press.

Members of the deputation.

(1) Mr. A. B. Shetty, M.L.C., (2) Mr. M. S. Sreshta, M.L.C., (3) Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad, M.L.C., (4) Mr. U. C. Bhat, M.L.C., (5) Mr. K. R. Karant, (6) Mr. M. Shankernarayana Rao, (7) Mr. J. A. Saldanha, (8) Diwan Bahadur N. Subba Rao, (9) Mr. V. K. Nambesan, (10) Mr. K. S. Adiga and (11) Dr. K. Vittal Shetty.

J. A. SALDANHA,
Chairman.

III

Petition from the ryots and cultivators of Hospet and Todar villages, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

[Cancellation of forest rights and concessions.]

We the ryots and cultivators of the villages of Hospet and Todar villages respectively beg to pray that the cancellation of the rights and concessions in the Reserve Forest of Hosabettu and Todar villages may be suspended until an official or non-official inquiry is held with a previous notice of the charges against them. Because no such previous notice had been given to them and the order of Conservator of January 1933 cancelling the rights and concessions came to them as a surprise. We respectfully submit that such drastic measure are calculated to add considerably to our terrible sufferings in these days of woeful distress. We beg to urge that whatever be the charges on which the cancellation are based, as a body the villagers concerned are innocent. It is alleged that a number of classified trees have been found cut. But most of them are dried trees, or dried branches of trees. Many other cuttings can be explained if an opportunity is

given to us. It appears that the Forest Department is under the impression that we have got large areas of Kumki lands. We beg to submit that they are far from adequate for the purposes of manure and other uses of cultivators. Hence, we obtained from Government the recognition of our immemorial rights in reserve forest to green manure leaves for manure and poles for planting beetle leaves-creepers. They are of absolute necessity just in the summer before the rains to be got from the reserve forests, without which we shall be reduced to a most pitiable condition. Hence our humble prayer for the suspension of the orders of Government pending an inquiry into the charges against us. We append a note explaining the origin and growth of the abovementioned rights and privileges, which will prove how absolutely necessary they are for the maintenance of cultivation in our villages. If Government persist in their policy of cutting off our rights and concessions in reserve forests, we shall be driven from our villages each and every one, allowing the conversion of our once most flourishing villages into a grand dense jungle fit only for the rapid increase of wild animals. May Government be pleased in the name of humanity to have pity upon us poor cultivators.

We beg to remain, your most obedient servants.

We submit this memorial through the Secretary of the Landholders' Association of South Kanara, for being forwarded to the Government with a note of the history of forest rights and concessions by J. A. Saldanha, ex-M.L.C., Hosabettu Church, 2nd April 1933.

Adiraja Kadamba, Landholder, Hosabettu
and others.

Enclosure.

Forest grievances of cultivators in South Kanara.

[Note below petition of the villagers of Todar and Hosabettu villages, dated 2nd April 1933, by Mr. J. A. Saldanha, ex-M.L.C.]

The petition is submitted with a typewritten copy of it with reference to the previous correspondence and notes. A reference is also invited to proceedings in the Legislative Council specially those reported in XLI, 211–245 and LIII, 170 and 231. The main points for being urged are—

(1) The rights of cultivators in villages to green leaves manure from adjoining reserve forests has been recognized from time immemorial and that without any fees, unlike in other districts, probably because of the ancient rights of village cultivators in forests and concession to cut brushwood beyond the Kumaki lands follows as a matter of course, restricted as it is within a certain distance.

(2) No apparent ground is given for the cancellation of the privileges. If there have been abuses on the part of the people, no warning was given to them, nor notice to show cause against their cancellation.

(3) The Todar and Hosabettu forests were formerly and have always been maintained for fuel purposes. But in the order of cancellation they are for the first time described as sandalwood reserves. Sandalwood plantation has been banished from this district as unsuitable and unremunerative. No change of the policy of the department has been notified. If there is a change in its policy, it may be expected to be carried out without prejudice to the rights and necessities of the cultivators in maintaining their fields and gardens—an inheritance of ages of immense labour and expenditure of money.

(4) The drastic manner in which the orders are carried out with only two or three months' notice savours of barbarous cruelty, not to speak of the injustice involved, especially in these days of terrible distress, which is more acutely felt in the interior villages than on the coast. It is hoped therefore that the pitiful and pathetic cry of the poor villagers will meet with fair and merciful treatment on the part of Government.

J. A. SALDANHA.

MANGALORE,
10*th April* 1933.

IV

Letter from the Honorary Secretary, the Catholic Association of South Kanara, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated Mangalore, the 1st May 1933, No. 27.

I am directed to submit for your information and favour of necessary action the following resolution passed by the general body of the South Kanara Catholic Association:—

"That this meeting views with great concern the withdrawal of the privileges and concessions granted to the villagers in reserve forests, especially Todar and Hosabettu, and urge that the orders may be suspended pending an enquiry after due notice to the people concerned."

A memorandum is being prepared showing the grounds on which the existing concessions should not be withdrawn. I am desired to request that meanwhile no final orders may be passed on the subject.

V

Abstract translation of petition from the ryots of Baindur, etc., villages.

The petition, which is in Kanarese, is a report of the proceedings of a public meeting held at Baindur (South Kanara district) on the 30th April 1933 under the presidentship of M.R.Ry. Yedtere Kristappa Shetty, in which the ryots of Baindur and the adjoining villages complain that the Forest department has all of a sudden withdrawn from the 1st April the concessions under which the local cultivators and the members of the public were allowed to remove from the reserve forests

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the dry fuel, dry leaves, green manure, brambles, etc., required for agricultural and domestic purposes, without the payment of any fee, that this concession had been introduced only about two or three years ago after the justice of the claim to these materials had been recognized after many long years of agitation, that the withdrawal of the concessions operates as a very great hardship which is apt to drive the ryots to despair and cause them to leave their lands uncultivated and create great disaffection among the ryots and that it behoves the benign Government to remove this hardship by restoring the concessions which have been cruelly withdrawn when the ryots are already suffering great distress.

The reports add that the president is authorized to submit copies thereof to the Hon'ble the Law Member, the representatives of South Kanara in the Legislative Council and to the newspapers of the district.

VI

Letter from Mr. J. A. Saldanha, to the Hon'ble the Law Member, dated 10th June 1933.

The question of withdrawal of the concessions in reserved forests allowed to cultivators, especially those of Hosabettu and Todar in South Kanara, has been before you for some time. I had submitted a note on representation of the cultivators of the last-mentioned two villages in April 1933 to the Secretary to Government, Development Department (Forests), and have sent one recently—a copy of which in print—I beg to submit in connexion with a memorandum submitted by the President of the South Kanara Catholic Association in drawing which I had some hand. In sending my printed note, I may lay stress on these points—

(1) The ryots of South Kanara enjoy the concessions especially the privilege of taking green manure leaves free of payment of fees as an exemption to the general rule in the Presidency on account of the exceptional conditions of this district, which are well described in the South Kanara Manual and in I.L.R. Mad., 257, at pages 260, 264, 279, 280 and 295.

(2) The privilege of free grant of green leaves cannot be intermixed with forest village panchayat system, as it was attempted to be as pointed out by Mr. Tireman in his speech on 15th April 1924 (Legislative Council Proceedings, XVII, page 730).

(3) That system was reported to be satisfactory till 1930–31 in 1932.

(4) There could not have occurred such extensive and serious abuses as to necessitate withdrawal of the concessions as well as the cancellation of the forest village panchayat system.

Our district includes Catholic cultivators, especially at Hosabettu and Todar—much concerned in the demand. Hence my appeal.

VII

Proceedings of the Chief Conservator of Forests, No. 560 *Ms., dated 17th December* 1932.

[Forest concessions—South Kanara—Withdrawal—Orders passed.]

After repeated requests the Government have eventually agreed to the gradual withdrawal of the special concessions in South Kanara beginning from next year and have ordered that the following reserves should be closed to the concessions to start with:—

(i) Six of the much abused reserves of the Coondapoor range of North Mangalore which lie farthest from the sea.

(ii) The following six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division:—

(i) Hosabettu.	(iv) Vorwady.
(ii) Todar.	(v) Mavinguly.
(iii) Nire.	(vi) Kassankatti.

(iii) The Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore.

As it is desirable that the people in the locality should be given reasonable warning of the intended closure of the reserves, the District Forest Officers concerned should notify immediately to the people affected the proposed withdrawal of the concessions by beat of tom-tom in the villages and by publication in the district gazette. The concessions should be withdrawn from 1st April 1933, after issuing the preliminary warning and notification.

2. The District Forest Officers are requested to submit reports on any representations that may be made against the withdrawal through the Collector and Conservator not later than 1st March 1933.

VIII

Extract of the proceedings of the meeting of the landholders of the Puttur taluk assembled in the Board Higher Elementary School, Puttur, dated the 29th April 1933.

* * * *

6. This meeting is grieved to hear that it is under contemplation to withdraw the few privileges granted to the public in respect of reserved forests and prays that Government may be pleased not to withdraw these privileges.

[Resolution No. 6—Forest privileges—Withdrawal threatened—Relief prayed.]

This resolution only prays that certain forest privilegs graciously given by Government should not be withdrawn as is rumoured to be under contemplation. It is possible, nay likely, that a very plausible case may be made out by the Forest department in support of such

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withdrawal. With a trained staff, this is easily done. It is only a question of heart and attitude with them but the peoples' side of the matter has to be heard before action has to be taken. If only such an opportunity is given the reason for withdrawal of concessions can be met. Forest grievances are fouling the atmosphere of rural parts and clouding the view of the people as to Government's intentions. The withdrawal of even the few privileges given will fill the heart of the people with bitterness and make their daily life and living most miserable and irksome. The submission is to save the people from all this suffering and misery.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 75 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd August 1933, page 165 supra.]

Statement No. III.

Districts.	Net current balance excluding the land revenue, the collection of which has been suspended or postponed.	Per centage of net balance excluding the collections suspended or postponed to the demand up to the end of June 1933.
(1)	(2)	(3)
	RS.	
Ganjam	26,761	1·1
Vizagapatam ..	19,380	0·7
Godavari, East ..	76,432	1·3
Godavari, West ..	8,117	0·2
Kistna	35,886	0·8
Guntur	23,681	0·4
Nellore	23,238	0·7
Cuddapah	7,035	0·4
Anantapur ..	3,331	0·2
Bellary	21,156	0·9
Kurnool	240	0·01
Madras	502	0·1
Chingleput ..	21,966	0·8
Chittoor	45,822	3·1
North Arcot ..	45,500	1·2
South Arcot ..	1,98,091	3·3
Tanjore	67,396	0·8
Trichinopoly ..	9,615	0·3
Madura	21.383	0·6
Ramnad	2,62,228	13·5
Tinnevelly	8,417	0·3
Coimbatore ..	6,120	0·2
The Nilgiris ..	1,024	0·5
Salem	15,405	0·5
South Kanara ..	95,301	3·4
Malabar	23,178	0·5
Total ..	10,67,205	1·2